



# Lake View's Nature News

Newsletter of the Lake View Nature Center

Winter  
2003

## Nature Center renovation update

In the last newsletter, we told you that the Lake View Nature Center would be closed from January to March for renovation. Well, as is typical for construction projects, we are falling a little bit behind schedule.

We are currently working through the zoning process with the village of Oakbrook Terrace. Once this process is complete, construction can begin.

At press time, we do not know exactly when the project

will begin. Hopefully, the delay will

be minimal and we will be able to

get started quickly. If we can start

by February 1st, we still should

be able to be open in time for

our Spring Celebration on

May 8th. (Spring Celebration

will be held in Terrace

View Park, even if

the Nature Center is not

open!)

Until we have a better

idea of the actual schedule, please call us to check on class locations. For now, at least, it looks as if January classes (Animal Adventures, Safari Club, etc.) will be held in the Nature Center, not at Heritage Center. Beyond that, we'll keep you informed as soon as we know more details.

The Nature Center will be open for walk-in visitors during normal operating hours through January, and until construction actually begins.

## Look inside for...

Featured animal:

Cooper's hawk

Winter family project

Special pull-out section for kids:  
games, crafts, and activities.

Winter classes and programs

## LVNC Notes...

The Nature Center will be closed:

December 24-25

December 31

**February 1 ??**

to

**April 31 ??**

(or project completion)

Regular programs (Animal Adventures, Safari Club, etc.) will be held at the Heritage Center on Ardmore Ave. during the construction.

Please call in March to begin scheduling school, preschool, and scout programs after we re-open.



# Hibernation • Renovation • Celebration

## Fall Open House – November 22, 2003



Above left: Ellen and Lisa Hartley create a family tree.



Above center: The McEllin and Barry families are ready to go on a hayride around the lake, driven by OBT Superintendent of Parks, Don Nuenthal.



Right: Lauren Scott demonstrates proper marshmallow-toasting technique at the campfire circle.

## Winter family activity: Fun with ice and snow

Here are some fun projects to try on those cold winter days when there's nothing else to do.

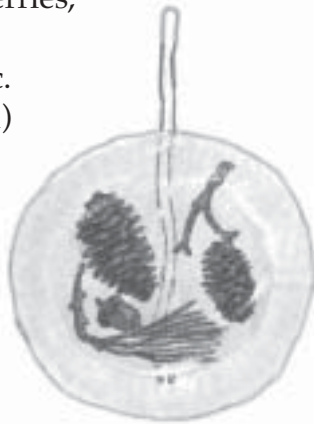
### Ice sun catcher

Materials:

- pie tin, styrofoam food container, box lined with aluminum foil, or other shallow container,
- leaves, pine needles, berries, pebbles, etc.,
- string, yarn, ribbon, etc.
- food coloring (optional)

Fill container with water and add food coloring if desired. Place ends of yarn/string into water leaving a loop extending out of the water. Arrange items around container. (It's ok if some of the items stick out of the water.)

When you're satisfied with the arrangement, place the container in the freezer or outside if it's cold enough. When it is frozen solid, pop the ice out of the container and hang it outside in a sunny place. (If the ice won't remove easily, try running some water over the bottom of the container.)



Observe your sun catcher as it hangs:

Try to guess how long it will last.

What is the outside temperature when the ice starts to melt (drip).

Is the melting temperature different if the ice is in the sun or shade at the time?

### Rainbow snow

Materials:

- several old spray bottles
- food coloring or tub tints
- rubber gloves (optional)

Fill some old spray bottles with water and add colors. Use your imagination to find things in your yard to color. (Non-toxic colors won't hurt plants, sidewalks, etc., but you may want to wear rubber gloves to protect your clothes.)



Some ideas:

Write your name or a message in the snow

Make snowballs and color them

Make a colorful snowman

Make a snow arch and paint it like a rainbow

Make snow angels with colored wings

## Creature feature

### Cooper's hawk *Accipiter cooperii*

This past year, we have been seeing brief glimpses of a special visitor to the park around the Nature Center. A Cooper's hawk has moved into the area.

Cooper's hawks are medium-sized raptors (birds of prey), about the size of a crow. They belong to the group of raptors known as accipiters, whose long tails and short, rounded wings are adapted for agile maneuvering in and around trees. These birds are rarely found far from tree cover, and will never be seen soaring in open air like their larger (and more common) cousins, the red-tailed hawk.

Their prey consists mainly of smaller birds, although they do eat some small animals. Their diet often makes them unpopular with people who put out bird feeders, as Cooper's hawks often stake out feeding stations to find their own dinner. Starlings, blackbirds, squirrels and chipmunks are common prey. When hunting, Cooper's hawks typically perch and wait for their prey to look away, then quickly swoop down and seize it in their sharp talons (claws).

Cooper's hawks typically build their nests in heavily wooded areas, 20 to 60 feet above the ground. The nest is made from sticks and twigs, and is constructed primarily by the male, although the female may assist him. During incubation, the male brings food to the female; after the eggs hatch, both parents share in feeding the young.



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*In 1978, there were no known Cooper's hawk nests in Illinois; by 1996 they had recovered well enough to be removed from the state endangered species list.*

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## Wentzscope

LVNC's newest exhibit debuted at the Fall Open House. An easy-to-use microscope known as a Wentzscope allows visitors a close-up look at some of the smaller parts of our natural world. Its large viewing window and simple focusing make the scope ideal for even very young children to use and learn.



*Arielle Alibudbud and Emily King try out the new Wentzscope. Inset: View down the scope showing a slide of mounted sheep hair.*

Cooper's hawks are a rare success story in endangered species recovery. Once listed as Endangered in Illinois, the species has become much more common in recent decades. In 1978, there were no known Cooper's hawk nests in Illinois; by 1996 they had recovered enough to be removed from the state endangered species list.

No one knows exactly why the species has made such a dramatic recovery, but scientists suspect that the banning of DDT in the 1970's was largely responsible. DDT, once widely used as a pesticide, is believed to cause some bird's egg shells to become too thin to hatch.

Cooper's hawks have also become much less shy than they once were, now being seen regularly in urban and suburban areas. Whether this is a result of their recovery or a factor in it is not known.



**Lake View Nature Center**  
**17 W 063 Hodges Road**  
**Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181**

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### Hours

Lake View Nature Center  
Monday to Friday – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Saturday and Sunday – Noon to 4:00 pm  
**CLOSED FEB. THROUGH APR. 2004**  
**(tentative dates)**

Terrace View Park  
Open sunrise to sunset.

### For more information

Lake View Nature Center ..... (630) 941-8747  
Heritage Center ..... (630) 627-6100  
Fitness Center ..... (630) 574-0420

*www.obtpd.org*

### Staff

Becky Lambert	Director
John Stoddard	Naturalist
Liane Knight	Program Coordinator
Karen Ritter	Environmental Educator
Deanna DeChristopher	Environmental Educator
Leslie Patsavas	Program Assistant

### Fees

**The Nature Center is free to the general public.**

### School and Community Groups

The Lake View Nature Center is an excellent place to explore the natural sciences. We offer programs for all ages and grade levels. We can customize programs to reflect seasons, special interests, Scout requirements, or Illinois State Learning Standards.

Fees for these programs are as follows:

\$2.00 per participant  
\$20.00 minimum group charge

Call the Nature Center at (630) 941-8747 for more information or to schedule a program.  
**(No groups during renovation process. Call after March 1st to check on availability.)**

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter, please call us at (630) 941-8747.